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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/081,183	02/25/2002	Hiroshi Kawakami	Q66541	6250

7590

08/25/2003

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Washington, DC 20037-3213

EXAMINER

LETSCHER, GERALDINE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1752

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/081,183

Applicant(s)

KAWAKAMI ET AL.

Examiner

Geraldine V Letscher

Art Unit

1752

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2-25-02 & 5-9-02.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Art Unit: 1752

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-20 are objected to because of the following informalities: line 12 of claim 1 recites "main *plain*" instead of "main *plane*". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Maruyama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,280,920).

Maruyama et al. discloses a silver halide photographic material comprising a support having thereon at least one silver halide emulsion layer containing a silver halide emulsion comprising (column 2, line 23+) tabular grains having {111} major surfaces wherein the variation coefficient of the equivalent circular diameters is 40% or less, and at least 50% of the total grain projected are accounted for by grains having a thickness less than 0.25 μm , wherein said tabular grain is a silver halide containing iodide, i.e., silver iodobromide or silver bromochloriodide, and characterized in that the

Art Unit: 1752

relationship between the surface iodide content in the main plane of each grain and the average value of the surface iodide content of all the grains meets the requirement of the instant invention (column 6, line 39+).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

4. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ihama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,287,753).

Ihama et al. discloses a silver halide photographic material comprising a support having thereon at least one silver halide emulsion layer containing a silver halide emulsion comprising tabular grains having {111} major surfaces (column 4, line 1+) wherein the variation coefficient of the equivalent circular diameters is 40% or less (column 4, line 48), and at least 50% of the total grain projected are accounted for by grains having a thickness most preferably 0.1 to 0.03 μm (column 4, line 35), wherein said tabular grain is a silver halide containing iodide, i.e., silver iodobromide or silver bromochloriodide (column 5, line 3+), and characterized in that the relationship between the surface iodide content in the main plane of each grain and the average

Art Unit: 1752

value of the surface iodide content of all the grains meets the requirement of the instant invention (column 5, line 32+; column 7, line 10+; column 18, line 63+).

The applied reference has a common assignee/inventor with the instant application.

Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

5. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kikuchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,534,257).

Kikuchi discloses a silver halide photographic material comprising a support having thereon at least one silver halide emulsion layer containing a silver halide emulsion comprising (column 2, line 23+) tabular grains having {111} major surfaces wherein the variation coefficient of the equivalent circular diameters is 40% or less, and at least 50% of the total grain projected are accounted for by grains having a thickness less than 0.25 μm , wherein said tabular grain is a silver halide containing iodide, i.e., silver iodobromide or silver bromochloriodide, and characterized in that the relationship between the surface iodide content in the main plane of each grain and the average value of the surface iodide content of all the grains meets the requirement of the instant invention (column 8, line 9+ and 39+).

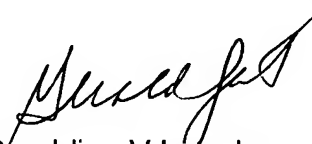
Art Unit: 1752

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Geraldine V Letscher whose telephone number is 703-308-3208. The examiner can normally be reached on usually Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janet C Baxter can be reached on 703-308-2303. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.


Geraldine V Letscher
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1752

August 10, 2003